



FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION CABINET
KENTUCKY HIGHER EDUCATION ASSISTANCE AUTHORITY

Ernie Fletcher
Governor

P.O. Box 798
Frankfort, Kentucky 40602-0798
Phone: 502.696.7497
Fax: 502.696.7496
www.kheaa.com

Robbie Rudolph
Secretary

Dr. Joe L. McCormick
Executive Director

Contact: Lori Powers
Phone: (502) 696-7378
E-mail: lpowers@kheaa.com

Financial Aid Tip of the Month, June 2005

AP, IB can give students a head start on college

Students wanting to get a head start on their college studies should check out Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) classes if they're offered at their high schools.

AP classes are the most common in Kentucky and are offered in many different subjects. The classes are taught like college courses, and students who do well on the exams may be able to get college credit. Colleges differ on what scores they will accept for college credit, so you need to check with the admissions office if you want to go this route.

Being successful in an AP class isn't easy, according to Kathi Fletcher, the AP coordinator at East Ridge High School in Pike County. East Ridge has offered AP classes in English, chemistry, calculus, biology and history.

"It takes a dedicated student," she said. "You really have to put in the extra work. It's taught more like a college class, maybe even harder than a college class because you're meeting five days a week."

IB is a two-year program. Students can get a full IB diploma or just certificates in certain classes. To get the full diploma, they must complete classes in English, European history, math, a foreign language (third and fourth year or beyond), experimental sciences, theory of knowledge, and an elective (either visual art or computer science). They must also test in three higher level and three lower level courses, one from each area. The requirements also include two world literature papers, a 1,400-word historical monograph, a 4,000-word essay, and a math portfolio.

"The longer I'm involved with the program, the more I see how it prepares students not just to get into college but also to come back four years later with a degree," said Rachel Rosales, IB coordinator at Apollo High School in Daviess County.

Students who complete the IB diploma requirements can enter some colleges with sophomore standing.

For more information about Kentucky scholarships and grants, visit www.kheaa.com; write KHEAA, P.O. Box 798, Frankfort, KY 40602-0798; or call (800) 928-8926, extension 7381. For more information about student loans, visit www.studentloanpeople.com; write The Student Loan People, P.O. Box 24328, Louisville, KY 40224-0328; or call (888) 678-4625.

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